

Committee on Education and the Workforce:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 14, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 created the Web-Based Education Commission (the "Commission") to conduct a thorough study to assess the educational software available in retail markets for secondary and postsecondary students. The Commission will conduct the study by utilizing existing research, holding public hearings and facilitating information exchange within and between the Federal Government, State Governments and educators. As a result of amendments to the Web-Based Education Commission Act included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2000, the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives is to appoint a Member from the House to the Commission and the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate is to appoint a Member from the Senate to the Commission.

Pursuant to Section 852(b) of Public Law 105-244 (as amended by Public Law 106-113), I hereby appoint the Honorable Johnny Isakson to the Web-Based Education Commission.

Sincerely,

BILL GOODLING,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER, OFFICE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Gary Denick, Production Operations Manager, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, January 11, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena *ad testificandum* and *duces tecum* issued by the Court for the District of Columbia in the case of *United States v. Armfield*, Case No. M13209-99.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY DENICK,
Production Operations Manager.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER, OFFICE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Gary Denick, Production Operations Manager, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, January 18, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with two subpoenas *ad testificandum* and *duces tecum* issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoenas is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY DENICK,
Production Operations Manager.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HENRY A. WAXMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that my district office has been served with a deposition subpoena for business records issued by the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, in the case of *McIntosh v. Department of Justice*, Case No. BC218586.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kay Ford, Associate Administrator, Office of Human Resources:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that the Custodian of Records, Office of Human Resources has received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

KAY FORD,
Associate Administrator,
Office of Human Resources.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FINANCIAL COUNSELING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jacqueline Aamot, Financial Counseling Director, Office of Finance:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that the Custodian of Records, Office of Finance has received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

JACQUELINE AAMOT,
Financial Counseling Director,
Office of Finance.

COMMUNICATION FROM COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, HOUSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Margaret Mitchell, Communications Specialist, House Information Resources:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that the Custodian of Records, House Information Resources has received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

MARGARET MITCHELL,
Communications Specialist,
House Information Resources.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the Floor of the House who does not have the privileges of the Floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the Floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the Floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special orders until 5:30 p.m., at which time the Chair will declare the House in recess.

The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

CITIZENSHIP FOR ELIAN GONZALEZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill that was introduced on Monday which would bestow citizenship upon Elian Gonzalez, a 6-year-old Cuban boy who was miraculously rescued off of Florida's shores on Thanksgiving Day.

This citizenship bill does not advocate for a particular outcome. It merely ensures due process. It ensures that a court of law will be afforded the opportunity to hear and evaluate all facts and arguments in the case; that it will hear testimony from Elian himself, who says he wants to stay here and who says he wants to be a citizen; that it will evaluate the statements of a child psychologist and other experts who present a comprehensive assessment of what is in Elian's best interest.

Mr. Speaker, in essence, this bill merely ensures that Elian's rights under the law are upheld and that his rights do not continue to be violated and circumvented by bureaucrats at INS.

Citizenship would also protect Elian in the event that he is required to return to Cuba against his wishes and one day seeks to return to our United States.

Mr. Speaker, for Elian's welfare and for the sake of justice, fairness and equality, I ask our colleagues to support the citizenship bill.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT FORCE CITIZENSHIP ON ELIAN GONZALEZ

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, Elian Gonzalez will be the only person in the history of this country to have citizenship and/or residency shoved down his

throat. He has not asked for it and the guardian who we accept is speaking for him in Cuba has rejected it.

In the meantime, there are 2 million folks awaiting citizenship in this country who followed the law and will not get it on that date. There are 9 million undocumented aliens who will not receive residency on that date. The arrogance of all of this is that for the first time ever we are going back on a promise. We have said for years that we are not trying to hurt the Cuban people, but rather the Cuban government.

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From a desire to hurt the Cuban government, we now question grandparents' love for their grandchild, after all, they are only tools of the Communist government, and fathers' love for their child.

I have spent 3 days with the grandmothers. We all know grannies. They do not seem to me to be crying Communist tears or Socialist tears. They are crying the tears of grandparents who want Elian back. They show me pictures of his room, of his toys. They said to me, "We cannot provide him trips to Disneyland or Disney World. We cannot provide him an electric car, but we love him, and we want him back."

DO NOT PLAY POLITICS WITH EMERGENCY FUEL ASSISTANCE

(Mr. RAMSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Clinton released \$45 million in emergency fuel assistance to 11 States to help low-income families and senior citizens pay their utility bills, States that have been unusually hit by cold weather.

Mr. Speaker, I noted that New York, New Hampshire, and nine other States got these funds, but Minnesota got nothing. A State like Minnesota which has experienced very, very harsh winter temperatures, below zero windchills on a regular basis, where fuel prices are 30 percent higher than last year has got nothing.

As Senator WELLSTONE said yesterday, there is no reason to put families in New York or New Hampshire above families in Minnesota. I certainly agree with the good Senator from Minnesota. We are running out of money. And I have nothing against my friends in New York and New Hampshire, and perhaps their requests are warranted. But believe me, it is unfair, unconscionable, and unreasonable not to grant Minnesota the necessary funds.

Ninety thousand Minnesota families in need are going to be at risk if we do not get this emergency fuel assistance. I urge the White House not to play politics with the emergency fuel assistance.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO GIVE ELIAN GONZALEZ RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today, and actually in comment of other colleagues as well, of supporting legislation that would give Elian Gonzalez at least resident alien status in the United States of America.

I do this because it is a Solomonesque answer to a tragic situation. But let me also just stop and reflect, and hopefully not just my colleagues but people throughout the country will listen, that if a mother left a country that had slavery and died on the way to freedom and her child was able to reach freedom and then the owner of the father told the father to ask for the boy back, we would be suspect of what the father said.

Unfortunately, the reality of Cuba today is exactly that. It is a country where the leader does, in fact, kill people indiscriminately, does in fact restrict freedom of speech, religion, and travel. If it were not so, what I just said, the father would be here.

The obvious reason the father is not here today or not here 2 months ago is because Castro is afraid that if he comes, he will not leave. I ask my colleagues to support this effort.

ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO PUT ASIDE PARTISAN DIFFERENCES AND WORK WITH CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, we all know President Clinton is coming to this Chamber tonight to deliver his last State of the Union address. As we all await with great anticipation what he will say and what he will propose, I would like to mention a few items I hope he will emphasize.

The House Republican leadership wrote to the President this week asking that he discuss three specific initiatives. I would like to echo their call to the President to, first, join us in protecting 100 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund; second, detail how he will pay off the public debt by 2013; and, third, sign meaningful and responsible tax fairness into law and do not propose higher taxes or more burdensome user fees.

If the President can address these items and resist the temptation to propose new spending programs that increase the size and scope of the Federal Government, then his speech will be well received by Congress.

Tonight is a major opportunity for cooperation, not confrontation. I hope the President will work with us this